

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 AGRE-00 COME-00
TRSE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EUR-12 /106 W
-----111419Z 124205 /46

R 111015Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3153
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL MANDALAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 0694

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, BM, CB
SUBJ: IENG SARY VISITS BURMA

SUMMARY: KAMPUCHEA DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS IENG SARY IS VISITING BURMA MARCH 7-14, HIS FIRST
OFFICIAL BILATERAL VISIT TO ANY COUNTRY. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS
PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN HIS EXPRESSION OF KAMPUCHEA'S
WILLINGNESS TO HAVE CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES BUT REFUSAL TO JOIN "ANY ALLIANCE OR ANY REGIONAL
ASSOCIATION"; AND HIS CLAIM THAT KAMPUCHEA HAS "SOLVED THE
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PROBLEM OF FOOD", AND HAS SOME SURPLUS FROM THIS YEAR'S RICE
HARVEST.

A RANKING BURMESE MOFA OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT BUMESE-
KHMER RELATIONS HAVE BEEN HISTORICALLY GOOD BECAUSE OF MUTUAL
DIFFICULTIES WITH THAILAND, AND THAT DELEGATIONS OF THE TWO
COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY CLOSE AT RECENT INTERNATIONAL

GATHERINGS, SO IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT BURMA IS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RECEIVE A BILATERAL VISIT FROM IENG SARY. IN PRIVATE MEETINGS, SHE SAID, SARY HAS EXPRESSED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE CONCEPT OF A REGIONAL ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY, BUT INSISTS THAT IT MUST NOT BE SPONSORED BY ASEAN AND THAT THE WORD "INDEPENDENCE" BE SUBSTITUTED FOR "FREEDOM". THE KAMPUCHEANS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR INTENTIONS OF OPENING AN EMBASSY IN RANGOON, BUT CANNOT YET DO SO BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AND THEIR DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR ADDITIONAL EMBASSIES IN PHNOM PENH. SHE SAID THAT SARY WILL VISIT PAKISTAN AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF HIS VISIT HERE AND MAY ALSO VISIT KUALA LUMPUR.

WE SEE LITTLE SUBSTANCE IN THE VISIT OTHER THAN ITS GOODWILL ASPECTS. END SUMMARY.

THE VISIT

1. IENG SARY, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA, ARRIVED IN RANGOON MARCH 7 FOR A WEEK-LONG GOODWILL VISIT. IT IS HIS FIRST BILATERAL VISIT TO ANY COUNTRY SINCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT SEIZED POWER IN PHNOM PENH IN APRIL 1975.

2. MEMBERS OF SARY'S PARTY ARE:

--SAM SAN, DIRECTOR, POLITICAL AFFAIRS DEPT, MOFA
--THIOUNN PRASITH, DIRECTOR, ASIAN AFFAIRS DEPT, MOFA
--MR. SOU, DIRECTOR, PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT, MOFA
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--MR. SEILA, CHIEF, SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS
BRANCH, MOFA
--MR. Y. CHHEAN, ADC TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

3. SARY WAS WELCOMED AT THE AIRPORT BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER U HLA PHONE, THE CZECH AMBASSADOR (DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS), AND THE CHARGES OF THE PRC, DPRK, SRV, AND HUNGARY.

4. SARY HAS CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER U SEIN WIN AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER U LWIN IN ADDITION TO U HLA PHONE, AND HAS VISITED VARIOUS TOURIST SITES AND FACTORIES. ON MARCH 10 THE DELEGATION WENT TO MANDALAY.

5. COVERAGE OF THE VISIT IN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS BEEN VVERY HEAVY.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

6. SARY MADE AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT AND A TOAST AT A BANQUET

HOSTED BY U HLA PHONE. THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE STATEMENTS:

--THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO "FURTHER STRENGTHEN AND DEVELOP THE LINKS OF FRIENDSHIP AND THE BILATERAL RELATIONS" BETWEEN KAMPUCHEA AND BURMA "AS FRIENDLY NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE GREAT FAMILY OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES".

--BURMA AND KAMPUCHEA HAVE HAD FRIENDLY RELATIONS FOR CENTURIES, AND THE TWO PEOPLES HAVE SIMILAR CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS.

--KAMPUCHEA APPRECIATES BURMA'S POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND "SOLIDARITY WITH THIRD WORLD PEOPLES", AND PARTICULARLY BURMA'S SYMPATHY FOR KAMPUCHEA.

-- KAMPUCHEA "ALWAYS PURSUES A POLICY OF INDEPENDENCE, PEACE, NEUTRALITY, AND NON-ALIGNMENT....HAS NEVER INTERFERED IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES...(AND) WILL NEVER CONFIDENTIAL

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JOIN ANY ALLIANCE OR ANY REGIONAL ASSOCIATION. HOWEVER WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO PROMOTE CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES HAVING COMMON BORDERS WITH US AS WELL AS WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES, NEAR AND FAR, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ON THE BASIS OF STRICK MUTUAL RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, NON-AGGRESSION, NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, EQUALITY, AND RECIPROCAL BENEFIT."

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 AGRE-00 COME-00
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USLO PEKING
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL MANDALAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 0694

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

--DOMESTICALLY, KAMPUCHEA HAS "SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF
FOOD....OUR RICE PRODUCTION THIS YEAR IS BETTER THAN LAST
YEAR, FULLY IN COMPLIANCE WITH OUR PLAN, INSURING SUFFICIENT
FOOD SUPPLY FOR THE PEOPLE. BESIDES, WE HAVE SOME SURPLUS TO
BE USED AS CAPTIAL FOR OUR COUNTRY'S DEFENSE AND CONSTRUCTION.
AT THIS MOMENT, AFTER HAVING HARVESTED AND GATHERED IN THE
CROPS, THE PEOPLE AND THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY OF KAMPUCHEA
ARE LAUNCHING THEIR OFFENSIVE IN BUILDING UP EMBANKMENTS,
IN DIGGING CANALS AND RESERVOIRS, IN PRODUCING FERTILIZERS,
AND IN CREATIVELY DEVELOPING INDUSTRIES THROUGH AN IMPETUOUS
MASS MOVEMENT ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WITH A HIGH SPIRIT OF
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COLLECTIVITY. THIS HAS THE MOST PROFOUND REVOLUTIONARY
SIGNIFICANCE EVER SEEN IN OUR COUNTRY."

7 SARY MENTIONED THE "MANY PROBLEMS LEFT OVER BY THE VERY
DEVASTATING WAR OF AGGRESSION OF THE U.S. IMPERAIALISTS", BUT
DID NOT OTHERWISE REFER TO THE U.S. OR DWELL ON THE WAR.

8. IN HIS TOAST, U HLA PHONE WELCOMED THE FOUNDING OF
DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA AND LAUDED "THE RESOUNDING VICTORY OF
THE PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA IN THEIR NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE."
HE NOTED THE LONG HISTORY OF "GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS"
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND SAID THAT "EACH, IN ITS OWN
WAY, IS DEDICATED TO A POLICY OF INDEPENDENCE, PEACE AND
NON-ALIGNMENT."

BURMESE VIEW

9. DAW THAN HAN, ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MOFA
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT, WHO IS
INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THE VISIT, TOLD US THAT THE INITIATIVE
FOR THE VIST CAME FROM KAMPUCHEA. SHE DID NOT FIND IT SUR-
PRISING THAT SARY PICKED BURMA AS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO VISIT
ON A BILATERAL BASIS, NOTING THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE

TWO COUNTRIES HAVE LONG BEEN GENUINELY FRIENDLY BECAUSE OF COMMON DIFFICULTIES WITH THAILAND AND REAL CULTURAL TIES (E.G., KHMER AND THE LANGUAGE OF BURMA'S LARGE MON COMMUNITY ARE STILL MUTUALLY INTELLIGIBLE). SHE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT BURMA WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY PRINCE SIHANOUK VISITED FOLLOWING CAMBODIAN INDEPENDENCE IN 1954. IN RECENT MONTHS, SHE ADDED, BURMESE AND KAMPUCHEAN DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL MEETING,S ESPECIALLY THE 1976 UNGA AND COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT, HAVE BEEN VERY FRIENDLY AND CLOSE.

10. DAW THAN HAN SAID THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING UNUSUAL DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE MEETINGS DURING THE VISIT, AND SARY'S COMMENTS HAVE FOLLOWED CLOSELY HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HOWEVER, SHE NOTED THAT SARY HAS PARTICULARLY STRESSED CONFIDENTIAL

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KAMPUCHEA'S UNWILLINGNESS TO JOIN ANY REGIONAL GROUPINGS. WITH REGARD TO THE ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM, AND NEUTRALITY, SHE SAID, THE KAMPUCHEANS FAVOR THE IDEA IN PRINCIPLE BUT INSIST THAT IT NOT BE SPONSORED BY ASEAN AND THAT "INDEPENDENCE" (A "POLITICAL" TERM) BE SUBSTITUTED FOR "FREEDOM" (A "SOCIAL" TERM).

11. THE KAMPUCHEANS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR INTENTION OF OPENING AN EMBASSY IN RANGOON, ACCORDING TO DAW THAN HAN, AND HAVE NOT YET DONE SO ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL, AND THEIR DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR ANY ADDITIONAL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN PHNOM PENH. ("FOR EXAMPLE", SHE SAID, "THEY HAVE NO PETROL. THE FORTNIGHTLY PRC AIRLINE FLIGHT INTO PHNOM PENH MUST BRING ALONG ITS OWN FUEL FOR THE RETURN TRIP.")

12. THERE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE A RETURN VISIT TO PHNOM PENH BY THE BURMESE FOREIGN MINISTER, DAW THAN HAN SAID, BUT TIMING HS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED.

13. AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR VISIT HERE, ACCORDING TO DAW THAN HAN, SARY AND PARTY WILL PROCEED TO PAKISTAN BY WAY OF CHINA. SHE THOUGHT THEY MAY ALSO VISIT KUALA LUMPUR BEFORE RETURNING TO PHNOM PENH, BUT SHE WAS UNSURE OF THIS.

COMMENT

14. WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DAW THAN HAN PRETTY MUCH AT FACE VALUE. THE VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE LITTLE REAL SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN ITS GOODWILL ASPECTS. OSBORN

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Message Attributes

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Subject: IENG SARY VISITS BURMA SUMMARY: KAMPUCHEA DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IENG SARY IS VISITING BURMA MARCH 7-14, HI
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